

**We claim:**

1. In a mobile telecommunications network, a method of determining an approximate location of a mobile station, comprising the steps of:

- 5        sending a request to said mobile telecommunications network to determine a location of a target mobile station;
- responsive to receipt of said request, said mobile telecommunications network identifying a base station and sector currently serving said mobile station;
- said mobile telecommunications network transmitting data for identifying said base station and sector, and data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region, and a service provider of that base station;
- 10        in a database, translating between said data for identifying said base station and sector, and said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region, and a service provider of said base station to obtain identification in a standard format of said base station and sector; and
- 15        translating from said identification in a standard format of said base station and sector to a geographic location of said base station and sector.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

         authenticating whether said request comes from a source authorized to make the request.

20        3. The method of claim 1 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a country.

         4. The method of claim 1 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a service provider.

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         5. The method of claim 1 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a vendor.

         6. The method of claim 1 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a country and region.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a region.

8. In a mobile telecommunications network, apparatus for determining an  
5 approximate location of a mobile station, comprising:

apparatus for sending a request to said mobile telecommunications network to determine a location of a target mobile station;

said mobile telecommunications network comprising apparatus, responsive to receipt of said request, for identifying a base station and sector currently serving said  
10 mobile station;

said mobile telecommunications network comprising apparatus for transmitting data for identifying said base station and sector, and said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region, and a service provider of that base station;

in a database, apparatus for translating between said data for identifying said  
15 base station and sector, and said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region, and a service provider of said base station to obtain identification in a standard format of said base station and sector; and

apparatus for translating from said identification in a standard format of said base station and sector to a geographic location of said base station and sector.

20 9. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising apparatus for:

authenticating whether said request comes from a source authorized to make the request.

10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a  
25 country.

11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a service provider.

12. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a  
30 country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a vendor.

13. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a country and a region.

14. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said data for identifying at least one of a  
5 country, a vendor, a region and a service provider consists of data for identifying a region.